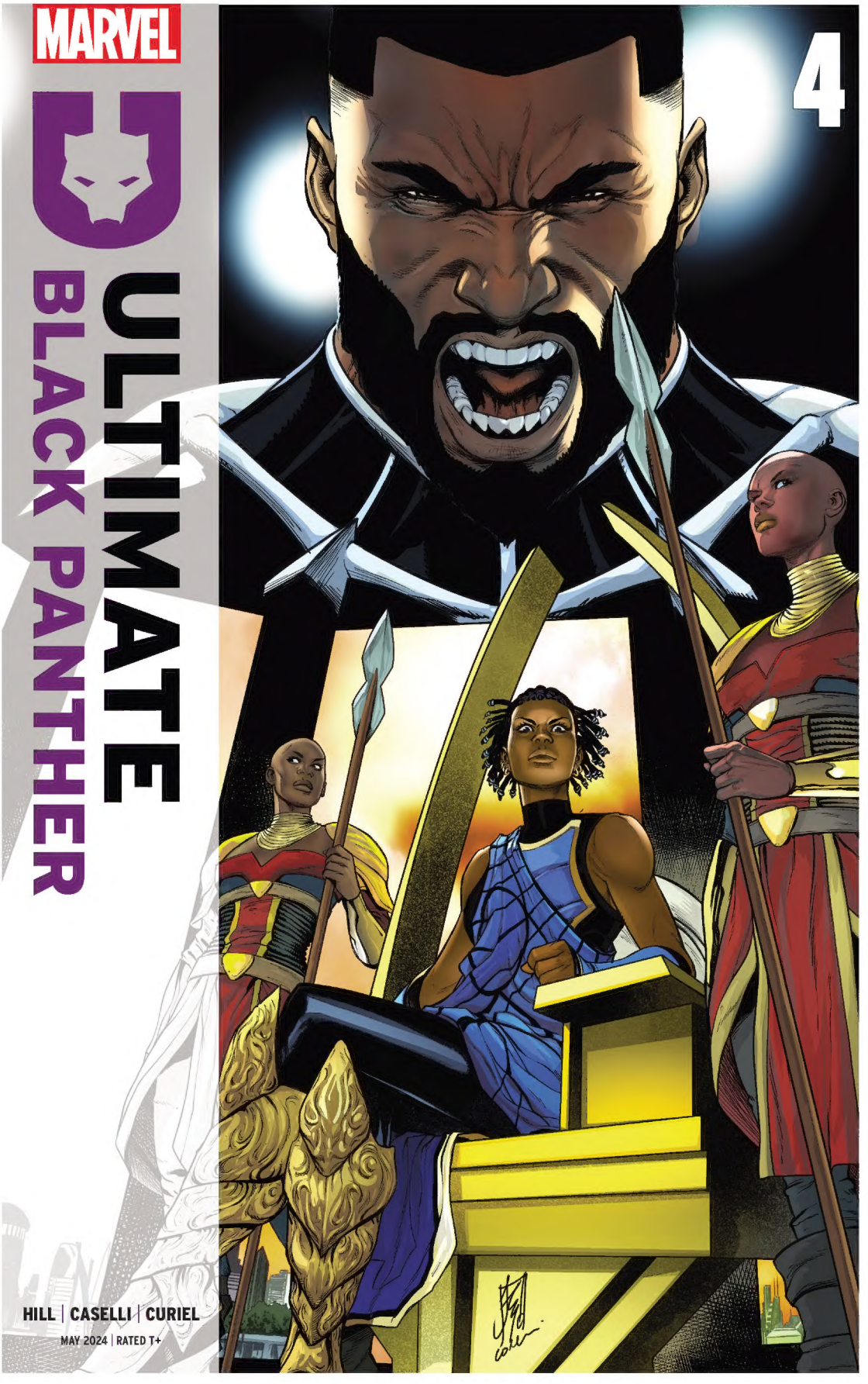

MARVEL
ULTIMATE
BLACK PANTHER
4
HILL | CASELLI | CURIEL
MAY 2024 | RATED T+

I have heard from our king.
Soon he will be back among us. He has *revelations.* About this war. About our enemies. About what they seek.
And how we can bring them humble before justice.
I know Wakanda has a fear it has not known for many generations.
The ones responsible for the death of our great King T'Chaka have yet to be found.
But do not lose faith. Do not make yourself accustomed to fear.
King T'Challa will come soon.
We must keep faith in his strength. We must be strong to receive him.

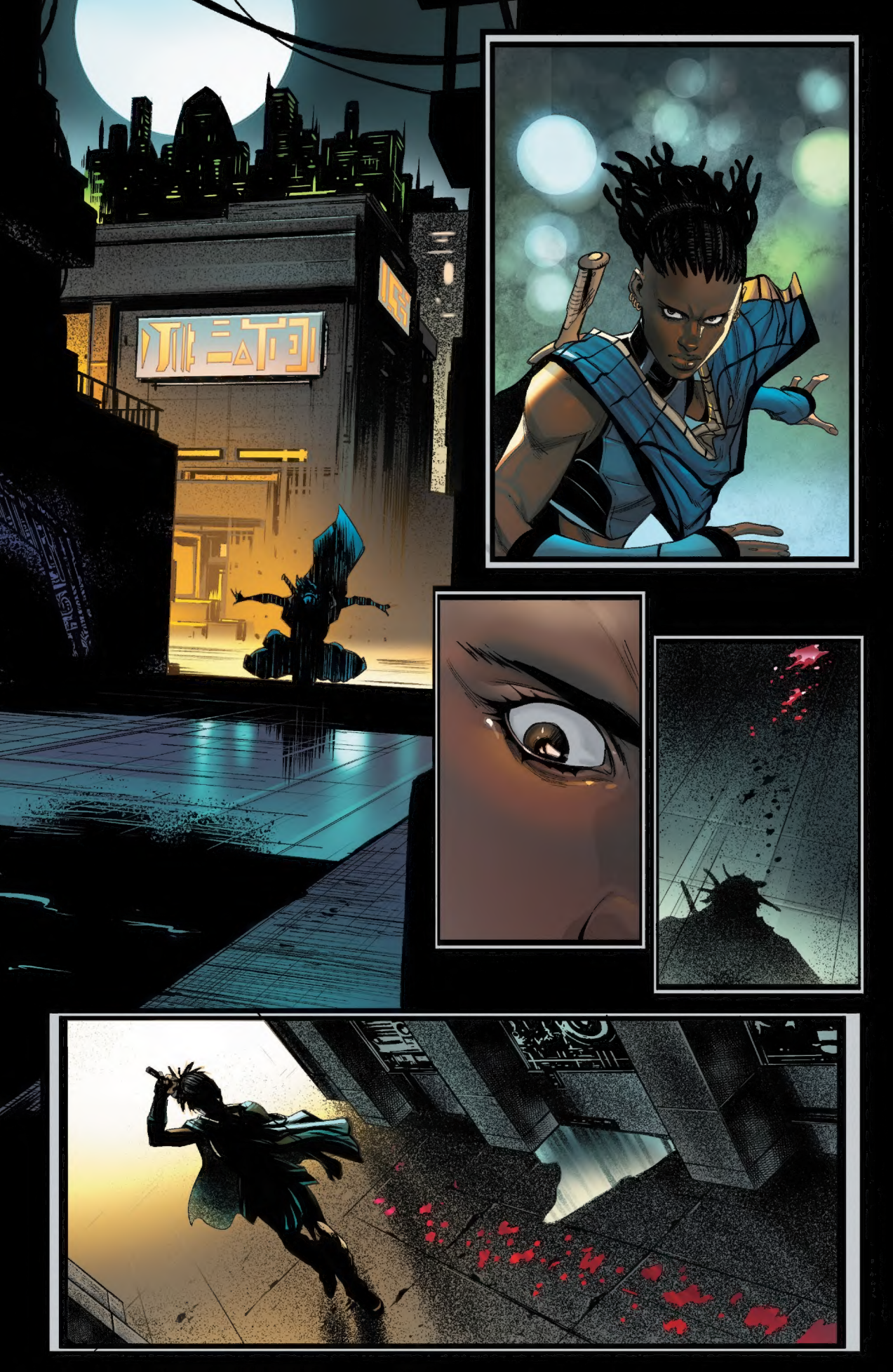
Wakanda forever!
FOREVER?!
"You lied, my queen."

But I understand why.
I gave them what they needed, Shuri.
Faith.
Faith I do not have.
You have not gotten word from T'Challa in weeks.
But that does not mean he is dead.
I have no idea what it means. But we have Wakanda tightening like a rope, a knot clutching itself.
There are more spies among us. Every instinct I have says that is so.
We need to root them out.
I will.
And you need rest.

Indeed, I do.
For tomorrow, more faith will be needed.
T'Challa will return. We will find that assassin. And we *will* end Khonshu and Ra's aggression.
Perhaps you should be the one to speak to Wakanda. You almost convince me, Shuri.
Not me, Okoye.
You are their queen.

...Sweat...?

Stay here, my queen.
I will end this tonight.



End of the line.
End of Wakanda.
Ishawtoo.
Aggggh!

You thought the Gods would let this place reign.
Unh!
You think this is a kingdom.
Wakanda is a *scar.*
I was raised believing in all your *lies.*
Khonshu found me blind.
And now I see.

Your stance... you are Dora Milaje.
Once.
...Why... betray... us...?
There is greater power in the Upper and Lower Kingdoms than you fools know.
You raised me to be a warrior.
Ra and Khonshu will make me a God.

Unh!
Who--?
SWWSH
You will not harm the queen...

...and you will not harm my blood.
We'll talk later, you and I.

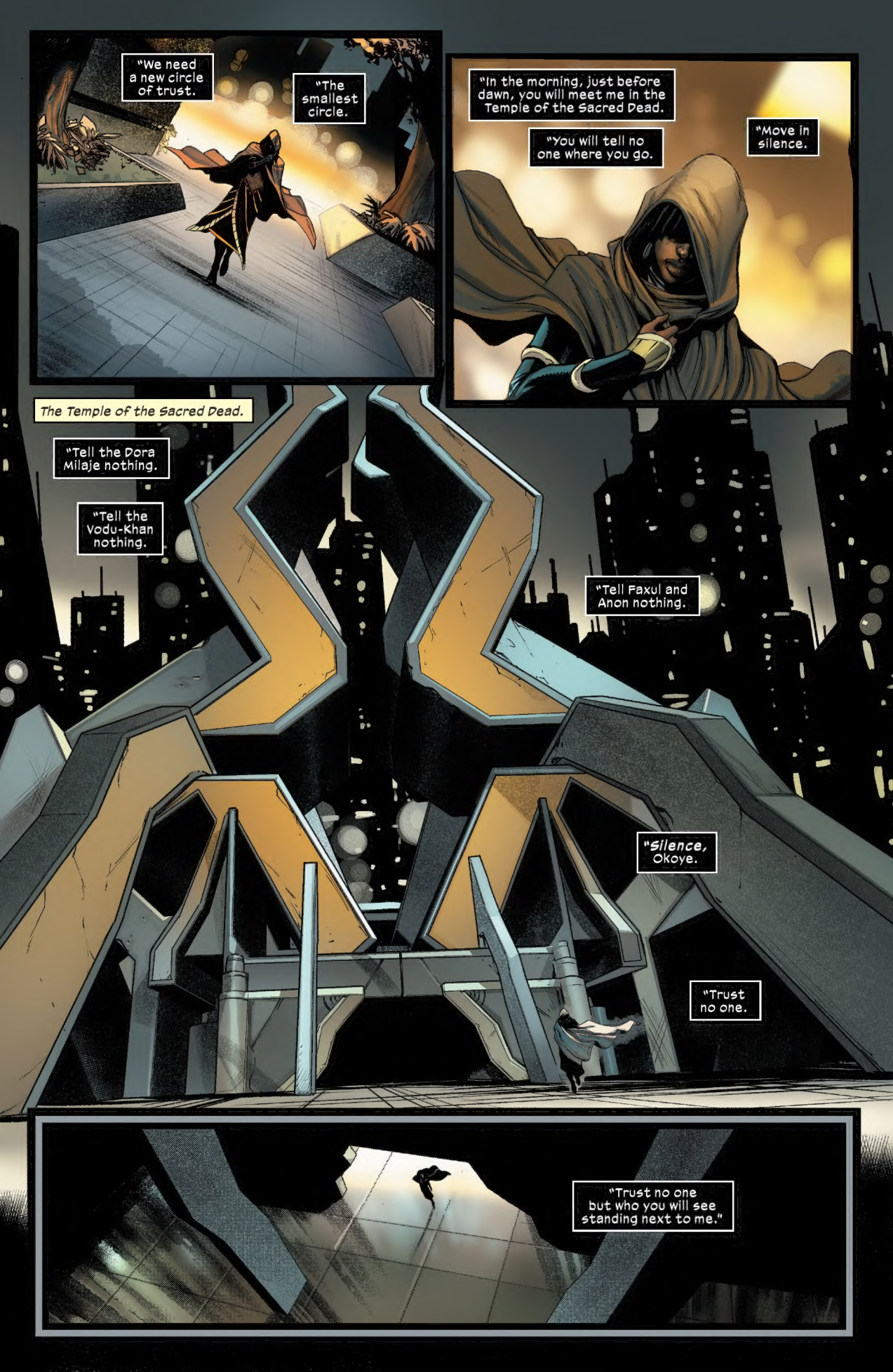
Brother. So you *are* alive.
Alive and aware.
She was Dora Milaje.
Spoke of Khonshu. They are in our ranks.
Every infection has a cure.
The Vodu-Khan will probe her mind. And then we'll rid the kingdom of the disease.
Brother, what is--? *Goddess!*

Temple of Ra. Location unknown.
Your Milaje failed.
We wanted death.
But fear will be enough.
You play with Wakanda, Ra.
You underestimate them.
Hardly.
Their king is dead. They fear us in their ranks.
Their strength was their safety, Khonshu, and we have taken it from them.
You underestimate T'Challa.

I estimate him *accurately.*
He knows our names. Not what we are.
He knows we seek power. But he does not understand what that power is.
And he still believes in his Gods.
His withering and impotent Gods.
When people turn to their kings and see fear, they lose their will.
When kings turn to their Gods and see weakness, they lose *everything.*
I have tired of playing with spies and assassins.
Gather the willing.
We will destroy Wakanda by the light of the moon.

--but you could have told *me!*
You are the king. And the king will do as he wants.
But you are *my husband,* and I deserve to know if you are dead or alive!
I have to stand before all of the people who believe in us. Who believe in Wakanda. And I have to tell them I know you are protecting us!
Even if I have to lie.
I *was* protecting us.
As I was protected tonight?
I should have been here.
No. I am not a scared girl, T'Challa.

I don't need you to watch over me.
I need you to tell me the truth.
No more secrets. Not between us.
No more secrets.
These men... Ra and Khonshu. They believe they are Gods.
And I know what they want.
And it frightens me, my queen.
Everything is about to change. For Wakanda. For Africa itself.
Our knowledge of the world is just shadows on the wall.
I have seen the light that casts them.


"We need a new circle of trust.
"The smallest circle.
"In the morning, just before dawn, you will meet me in the Temple of the Sacred Dead.
"You will tell no one where you go.
"Move in silence.
The Temple of the Sacred Dead.
"Tell the Dora Milaje nothing.
"Tell the Vodu-Khan nothing.
"Tell Faxul and Anon nothing.
"Silence, Okoye.
"Trust no one.
"Trust no one but who you will see standing next to me."

My queen. Meet our *circle of force.*
This is *Erik Killmonger.*
And *Storm.*
They are friends of mine. Of Wakanda.
And now, they are the only people we can trust.
TO BE CONTINUED...